

Kaye Rizzuto
Elk Ridge Middle School
First & Second Year German Teacher
Phone: (801)318-4956
Email: kayerizzuto@gmail.com

Dear Students and Parents!

It is almost time to register for the next school year. As you think about what classes you will enroll in, I would like to make you aware of an exciting opportunity available to you. In the new global economy the ability to communicate in another language is increasingly more valuable. Students who learn another language, among other things, increase their cultural awareness, develop flexible thinking, and improve their social skills. In short, there are many great reasons to learn another language. There is of course great value in learning *any* second language. **I would like to share several reasons why learning German at Elk Ridge will be particularly valuable to you.**

1. We celebrate German holidays and have several cultural experiences throughout the year including a fieldtrip to a German Restaurant and Bakery. German classes at Elk Ridge are fun with multiple activities each day. We spend a lot of time each day actually speaking in the language.
2. German and English are both Germanic languages. They both started out as the same language. They share many of the same words, word origins and grammar characteristics. That makes German a good choice for English speakers.
3. German is important in the global economy. Germany also has the world's third biggest economy (after the USA and Japan). Germany is the largest economic and political influence in Europe. Germany has the highest paid workers in the world. Germany is also the leading export nation in the world in proportion to its population. And Switzerland, another German-speaking country, is the world's richest country. The standard of living in German speaking countries is among the highest in the world.
4. German is a particularly valuable language in the business world. Germany is the world's leading exporter and third largest economy. An ever-increasing number of Utah companies do business in Germany. Germany is a world leader in pharmaceuticals, engineering, optics, auto

manufacturing, tourism, education, printing and many other fields.

5. German is important for science. **Most of the world's scientists** have come from or studied in German-speaking countries. Many new scientific discoveries happen in German-speaking countries, and some scientific information is only available in German. The newest elements on the Periodic Table were discovered by a German scientist. Universities encourage science majors to learn German.

6. The importance of German may not seem as obvious to Americans because we are separated from much of the world by ocean. We tend to notice only what's in our backyard. Worldwide, German is the third most popular foreign language to learn. In Europe, it is the second most popular (after English). The world sees the importance of German. We really do live in a global society, and we need to look at more than what's right around us. We need to think globally.

7. Students can take German 1-2 at Elk Ridge and then continue on at Bingham and Copperview. Many universities require students to take a minimum of two years of a foreign language in order to be accepted. The German 2 class in ninth grade would count for this requirement.

I know there are a lot of factors that go into choosing which language to learn. As the German teacher at Elk Ridge, I promise you that I am dedicated to improving myself as a teacher and providing the best learning opportunities to my students. I love teaching German and I want to make my class a positive academic and social learning experience for all of my students. For a small glimpse into our German World, please visit us at www.kayerizzuto.wikispaces.com or call me at home at 801-318-4956.

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